

In 1806 Hugh Ghormley came from Pennsylvania with his family, his son, Thomas, being then six years of age. The father bought 100 acres of land southeast of town from the Watt tract, or adjoining it. For several years he there carried on the business of carpet weaving, and then bought a farm near Paint Creek about four miles from Chillicothe. He returned to the city to reside, a few years before his death, which occurred in 1848.

Thomas Ghormley was married, in 1835, to Miss Elizabeth Steele, of Chillicothe and they had several children. One of their sons died, during the Civil war, as a Union prisoner at Andersonville, and another became a New York merchant. The father of this family was for thirty years engaged in business at Chillicothe, and also served several terms both as county treasurer and sheriff.

The following names of early settlers in West Scioto Township, we find in Finley & Putnam's "Pioneer Record," and insert them here as a part of the early history of Ross County.

William Rogers, Andrew and George Pontious, Peter Porter, James, Robert, Joseph, Jacob and William McDill, Michael, Thomas and Robert Adams, James McCrea, Joseph Clark, William Robinson, Enos and John Pursell, Jacob Grundy, Richard and John Acton, Thomas, Robert and William Brown, William Pool, James Danans, John and George Ricups, Daniel Dixon, Robert Worthington, Thomas Shields, James Prior, Hugh and James Cochran, Samuel Smith, Daniel, Augustus, James and Thomas Arthur. The last named lived to be nearly 100 years old. Nicholas Haynes, father of Henry and John Haynes, immigrated to West Scioto in 1808.

The following items are from the same source:

James Shane, a Dunkard preacher, who had two sons, Daniel and Abraham, occupied a part of the farm known as the Wood's tract.

Hugh and Alonzo Carson, the Sullivan family and the Dunn family were also among the first settlers.

E. Fullerton settled on the Zane tract east of the river. Isaac, Jacob, Andrew and Adam Creamer settled near General Greene, and all of his boys were in the War of 1812 under General Harrison. There were several of them and they were all large, strong, hearty men, well calculated to endure the hardships and privations of pioneer life. Many of their descendants now live in Fayette County.

The following were among the colored pioneers of Scioto Township: Thomas Watson in 1796; Henry Evens, 1798; Nelson Piles, 1800; Samuel Nichol, 1808; Abram Nichol, 1809; Peter James, 1812; Henry Hill, 1813; John Fidler and his son of the same name, in 1814. The colored people of Chillicothe and vicinity have, from those early times to the present, for the most part, been honest, industrious and useful citizens.

NATURE'S INDUSTRIES

Scioto Township has little to show, outside of Chillicothe, in the line of manufactures, several small flour mills virtually constituting the sum total. When it comes to Nature's products, the story is full of life. Corn and wheat, hogs and cattle flourish upon its soil. With the decline of pork packing in Chillicothe, the raising of swine has not shown such progress as the development of other live stock.

For the past half a century considerable attention has been given to the raising of fruit, especially in the hilly districts overlooking the Scioto Valley. From 1860 to 1870 a number of commercial orchards were planted in Scioto, Springfield, Huntington, Twin and Union townships, which proved to be paying investments. Gen. S. H. Hurst, one of the largest planters, had an orchard of 32,000 peach, plum and apple trees covering 200 acres, just over the Scioto Township line in Union, but the early frosts of the fall and the freeze-ups of the spring proved trying to fruit growers. Quite a number specialized in grapes with better success. Dr. D. H. Scott, of Scioto Township was of the number. L. Meggenhofen also had a productive vineyard in that township. H. J. Bailey planted a large orchard to apples, peaches, grapes and berries; Paul Martzluff and Joseph Plyley, peaches, and E. Lockwood and W. Brown, peaches and berries. There are still quite a number of good orchards in Scioto Township and the adjoining sections.